

# KKK seems to have lost some of that old spinach; Miami unimpressed

*Los Angeles Tribune* *Los Angeles, California* 9-3-45  
MIAMI, Fla. — This town's Negro section witnessed an old-style

Ku Klux Klan demonstration last week, complete with a burning cross, but it failed to be properly impressed.

The Whip, Negro weekly published in Miami, reported the parade was held by some "hoodlums" which included "police officials, judges, and city executives," who "set aflame a huge cross . . . in a Negro residential section. Among the spectators were two colored men, who, after a brief spell, casually walked over, hauled the spectacle down, and after smothering the flames, took the charred remains away as a souvenir," the newspaper said.

Editorial comment on the incident was made by the Lighthouse and Informer, another weekly, of Columbia, S. C., as follows: "The action symbolizes the attitude among Negroes of today toward the Klan. No longer do white-sheeted, mysterious hooded figures who ride by night throw terror into the minds of Negroes. As in Miami, there are in the general South, colored men who would today pull the bed sheets off this bunch of cowards and terrorists. Perhaps knowledge of this inspired Klansmen to hide it into virgin lands." 9-3-45



# Fiery Crosses of Ku Klux Klan Sighted Burning Atop Georgia Hills

## News 'Dismays' Macon Paper

Atlanta, Oct. 20 (AP)—The Ku Klux Klan, claiming a membership of more than 20,000 in Georgia, is burning its fiery cross again and stirring up new argument over the order born in Reconstruction days.

A huge cross which Klan leaders said was visible 60 miles away, was lighted atop historic Stone Mountain a few nights ago. It was the first cross-burning since the start of World War II.

Cross-burning was halted by the Georgia Klan during the war, Dr. Samuel Green, grand dragon, said, because it was necessary "that all factions unite to win the war."

The Macon News, "dismayed" at the report, said editorially that renewed Klan activity brought a "feeling of hopelessness, of futility of fighting against an unseen enemy of law and order."

### Journal Interviews Wizard.

The Klan is no longer active on a national basis but functions under a "voluntary" state setup, Green said. The Atlanta Journal reported more than a year ago that national headquarters here had been closed after suspension had been decided upon by leaders in a secret meeting.

The Journal quoted James A. Colescott, imperial wizard, as saying the reason for the action was not regarded as a subject for discussion "outside the Klan."

The newspaper said at that time that the Federal Government was planning to call upon the Klan for payment of some \$600,000 in corporate taxes.

Dr. Green did not like the tenor of The Macon News editorial.

"The Klan has as much right to exist as the Masons, Rotarians or any other organization," he said. The order, he declared, is law-abiding as a group and if individual Klansmen should violate the law, "the Klan would be the first to prosecute."

Green was asked about plans of the Klan after rumors circulated that it planned a parade through downtown Atlanta. No further demonstrations are planned immediately. He said the K.K.K. had never ceased functioning in Georgia and would



AP Wirephoto.

Grand Dragon Dr. Samuel Green of the Ku Klux Klan has announced the revival of the organization, claiming a membership in the State of Georgia of 20,000.

continue its advocacy of four cardinal principles.

### 'Principles' Listed.

He listed the four main principles as "character development," "clannishness"—mixing with those who have the same ideas; "protection of the home and chastity of white womanhood" and "exemplification of a pure patriotism to the U. S., its Constitution and its flag."

The 20,000 or more Georgia members were assessed an initiation fee of \$10, annual membership fee of \$6 and all chipped in \$2 for an insurance fund for the benefit of families of deceased members.

One of the main criticisms leveled at the organization has been that the cross-burning demonstrations and parades by robed and hooded men serve to intimidate Negroes.

## Ku-Klux Klan Again Flaunts Fiery Cross Atop Georgia Mountain; Chief Claims Right

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One of the main criticisms leveled at the organization has been that the cross-burning demonstrations and parades by robed and hooded men serve to intimidate Negroes.

"If we burned a cross in a Negro's backyard, that might be intimidation," Green said. "Burning it on top of Stone Mountain (18 miles from Atlanta) where the Klan was born and where we obtained permission of the owner, or in any section where we secured permission from authorities, is perfectly all right."

"The cross is symbolic of what the Klan stands for."

### Hate Everybody?

Editor Constitution: In your editorial, "The 'Hate Money' Runs a Little Thin," you make the point that those KKK "suckers" hate Catholics, Jews, Negroes and Franklin D. Roosevelt. Don't you think those "suckers" hate Protestants and Gentiles, too, or did you forget to mention them? If they don't hate Protestants, Gentiles and, say Herbert Hoover, why not? We Protestants and Gentiles would like to know why those "suckers" don't hate us, and why do they hate Catholics, Jews, Negroes and Franklin D. Roosevelt's name. And if you are going to try to explain this to us, please try to explain, too, why some groups of people are forever being accused of intolerance just because they can't tolerate the intolerance of other groups? No, I'm not one of those "suckers," and I hope they don't burn down Stone Mountain with their fiery oil of hate. I'm just seeking the information I am asking you for in these few lines.

Atlanta, Ga. E. S. McGAHEE

Haralson, Ga.

## Hate Sheet

Editor Constitution: Your editorial of the 24th was very timely. Also on the editorial page the cartoon was well put and timed to go

together. I only hope that some of the people that are receiving the copies of the little hate paper that I am inclosing to you will only read today's Constitution and maybe then they can get the connection.

The KKK and Fascist thought have been connected together now for some time and they are still working together here in the state of Georgia and I suppose that they are in other states as well.

You speak of the "hate money running thin." I wonder if you know how they are working it this time. On closer inspection you will find that they have more money at their fingertips than ever before. I know of some cases where they are working in connection with the different churches and manufacturers here in the state of Georgia. They come into town and get the mailing addresses of the employees of a company and start mailing out their propaganda to the workers. After they have duped the mill owners and

got their money and that good old mailing list, then they go to work on the people.

I call your attention to the mast-head of the paper that I refer to.

You will note that, as before the war, they are trying to hide behind the Bible and carry the Nazi trade-mark as well. On the top left-hand corner, notice the cross behind the Bible and the lightning strokes coming there from this was one of the old signs of the Fascist party. The trade-marks of the KKK and this paper seem to tie together with each other in every way. I believe that there must be at least 25,000 copies of this paper turned loose in the state of Georgia alone each month and it should be exposed to the public before it can do any damage. I would like for you to try and warn the people of this state just what they are reading. I am writing this so that maybe some of the people that are receiving this little hate sheet, and wondering how and why they are, can see the light.

W. F. BARKER.

Griffin, Ga.



**'Hate Money'**  
*Montgomery, Ala. Advertiser*  
Barnum generally is credited with saying the supply of suckers never ran out because there was one born every minute.

Here of late the organizations, preying on the sucker lists of those who fall for any plea involving hate, have so multiplied that the suckers must be getting a little weary.

Gerald Smith finally left Detroit, unable to bleed the suckers any more in that region, leaving the field to the small fry "hate" organizations. Here and there a dozen more have sprung up.

They will hate anything for a fee.

If you hate the Catholics, the Jews, the labor unions, the Negroes, the memory of Franklin Roosevelt, or anything else, they will be happy to take your money and send you a membership card.

Things got so bad that the old-fashioned Ku Klux Klan, apparently suffering from lack of leadership and ideas, had to go out a few days ago, put a few oil drums on Stone Mountain and have themselves an old-fashioned fiery cross burning. It didn't amount to anything, but was a hopeful bid for publicity. It didn't work very well. The klan will take 10 of your dollars, give you a bed sheet, a card and explain all about the klavern, the knight-hawks and the kleagles. The smarter boys are getting all the good pickings, what with the klan decidedly second rate and on the run from a tax agent. The oil drums on Stone Mountain were a little pathetic. **10-27-45**

If you are shy of money, there is one sure way to get some. Incorporate a hate organization, buy a mailing list—the one they all use—write a fine, fiery letter about the danger to the nation of the people you've picked out to hate, and go to it. The nickels and dimes and an occasional bit of serious money will come rolling in.

As Barnum said, there is one born every minute.—Atlanta Constitution.

## KKK Opens Post-War Hate Against Races and Reds

*The Afro American*  
*Baltimore, Md.*

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.—

(ANP)—The whole South may soon be ablaze with fiery crosses of the Ku Klux Klan which recently appeared here and in other parts of Dixie, as the hooded hate-group launches its all-out post-war attack against colored people, Jews, Catholics and Communists.

While a Federal tax suit prohibits the klansmen from operating as a national incorporated group, they are not without a leader and at least one known organizer. **12-15-45**

James A. Colescott, Atlanta, serves as imperial wizard, while J. B. Stoner publicly displays his cards as a local organizer, which embraces the middle Tennessee area.

### Boasts of Purposes

"We've been burning crosses in this area about a year," Stoner revealed, adding that, "we burned one recently in downtown Chattanooga."

Stoner, whose KKK organizational activities warrant an office here

in Room 204 of the Temple Court Building, said the city's "several hundred" klansmen get along pretty well "with the Catholics here, but we're fighting the Jews and colored people."

In an intensified anti-Semitic campaign, he petitioned Congress "to pass a resolution recognizing the fact that the Jews are children of the devil and that, consequently, they constitute a grave danger to the United States of America."

### Job Propaganda

White returning veterans have been urged by a small KKK group in Knoxville "to do something about the 'n—s' who got all the good jobs while you were in uniform."

Miami's colored citizens, living in the new Brown sub-division, recently saw KKK's torches during a zoning dispute between two colored families and the Dade County zoning commissioners.

Mr. and Mrs. Felton Coleman and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wilson who refused to be intimidated by the crosses, took the case to court where Judge Stanley Milledge ruled against jim-crow zoning laws. **12-15-45**

### Texas and Georgia

Texas klansmen, who report burning several crosses in San Antonio this year, said they are "ready to go to action if the need arises." Klaverns, or branches, are reported to be set up in Houston and Dallas, but the number of members is unknown. Georgians were warned that

the KKK was alive recently when a 300-foot fiery cross blazed from the summit of Stone Mountain.

Nine klan units function in Atlanta and, according to Dr. Samuel Green, grand dragon and a leader since 1922, "there are probably 25,000 klansmen" in the state at the present time.

### Can't Die, Says Chief

"The klan has never been dead and the klan is never going to die," declared Green.

The Fiery Cross, official KKK newspaper, was discontinued before Pearl Harbor, he said, because "our board of directors thought we ought to lay down any thought that might produce prejudice during the war. In our last issue, we asked all groups to join hands in the war effort."

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## KKK Activities Are Again Seen In South

*Memphis, Tenn.*  
*Memphis World*  
CHATTANOOGA, Tenn.— (ANP)

—The KKK's fiery crosses have recently appeared here and in other parts of the south as the hooded hate group launches its all-out post-war attack against Negroes, Jews, Catholics and Communists.

While a federal tax suit prohibits the klansmen from operating as a national, incorporated group, they are not without a leader and at least one known organizer. James A. Colescott, Atlanta, serves as imperial wizard of the Knights of Ku Klux Klan, while J. B. Stoner publicly displays his cards as a local organizer, which embraces the middle of Tennessee area. **12-14-45**

"We've been burning crosses in this area about a year," Stoner reveals. "We burned one recently in INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN"

Stoner, whose KKK organizational activities warrant an office here in Room 204 of the Temple court building, remarked that the city's "several hundred" klansmen get along pretty well "with the Catholics here, but we're fighting the Jews and Negroes." In an intensified anti-Semitic campaign, he petitioned congress "to pass a resolution recognizing the fact that the Jews are children of the devil and that, consequently, they constitute a grave danger to the United States of America." **12-14-45**

White returning veterans have been urged by a small KKK group in Knoxville "to do something about the 'n—rs' who got all the good jobs while you were in uniform." Klan activities are also reported in other parts of the south. Miami's Negro citizens, living in the new Brown subdivision, have recently seen KKK's hate torches during a zoning dispute between two Negro families and the Dade county zoning commissioners. Mr. and Mrs. Felton Coleman and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Wilson refused to be intimidated by the fiery crosses. They took the case to court and Judge Stanley Milledge ruled against jim-crow zoning laws.

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### STONE MT. CROSS

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### The Klan Again

From Georgia comes the not-surprising news that the Ku Klux Klan has been revived and has about 20,000 dues-paying members in that state alone. One of its purposes, as might be expected, is, in the words of Grand Dragon Samuel Green, "protection of home and the chastity of white womanhood." It also announces the continuation of its fight against Communism, and altho Jews and Catholics are not mentioned, it declares for "the mixing of those who have the same ideas," which might be their way of stating opposition to Jews and Catholics. The joining fee is \$10 and annual dues are \$6, with an additional \$2 for an insurance fund. *Seattle, Wash.*

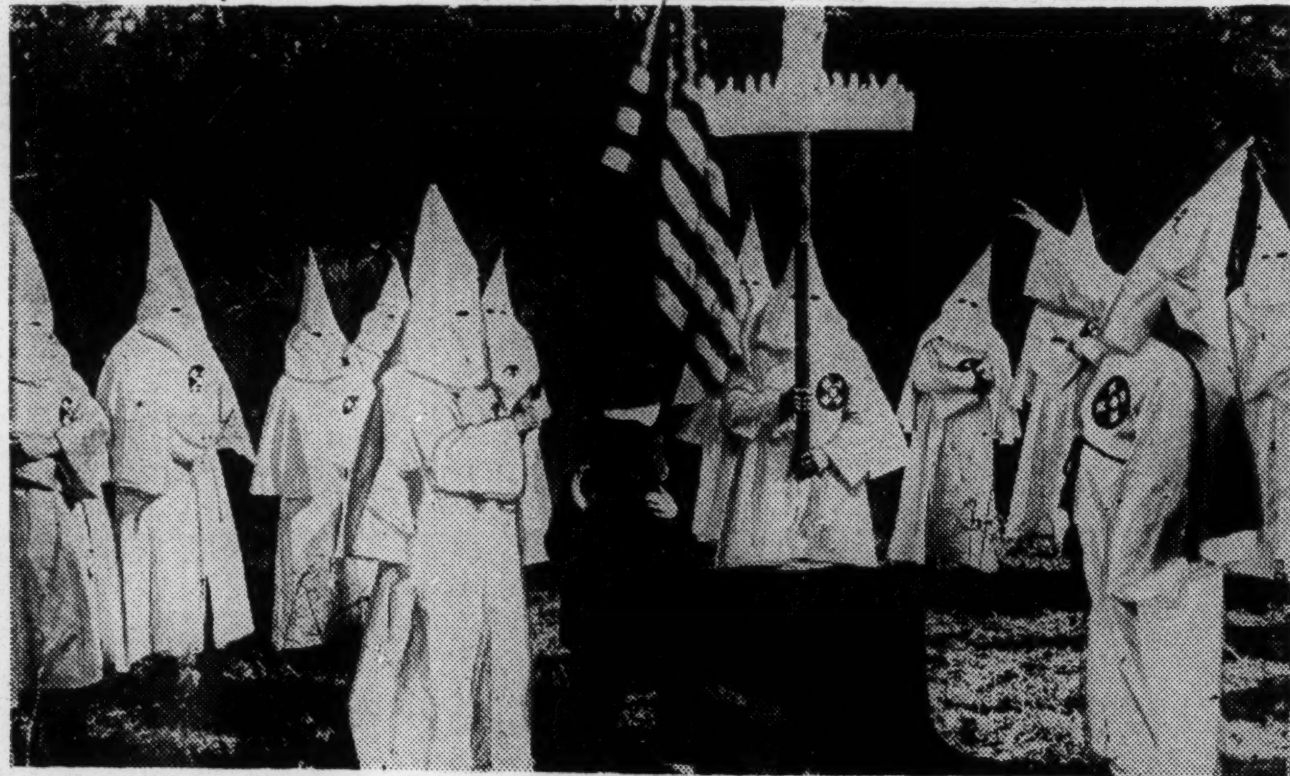
Negroes who claim to have difficulty in finding \$1 or \$2.50 per year to join the NAACP might take note. **12-5-45**



44-1945

## Ku Klux Klan

*People's Voice*  
WICHITA, Kans.—A Ku Klux Klan organizer has arrived here to organize a KKK in Kansas. He is George C. Ahearn of Tuscaloosa, Miss. He claims he already has 95 members in Hutchinson, 72 in Newton and 77 in Wichita. Ahearn's work will be completed when he has a klan of 100 members in each of these cities at \$20 a member, he told Federated Press, adding: "In Tuscaloosa all real people are kiansmen and down there niggers, Jews and Catholics don't stick their necks out."



All of the activities of Ku Klux Klan members shown here in full regalia, were not this peaceful. Since its revival in 1915 by William Joseph Simmons, who died last week in Atlanta, it is credited with atrocities on colored people, Jews and Catholics, which rank with those of the Nazis.



# "Wizard" Who Revived KKK Joins Friend Hitler in Death

William Joseph Simmons, Organizer of Hate Klan, Failed to Attain the Wealth and Power He Sought

The man who was responsible for revival of the Ku Klux Klan some 30 years ago died unheralded last week in Atlanta, Ga.

Cunning, shrewd William Joseph Simmons, who was once too "incompetent" to serve as a Methodist travelling minister, died without the wealth and power he dreamed of when he organized the secret, "Invisible Empire," in 1915, patterned after the old KKK of Reconstruction Days.

## Outsmarted by Partners

His partners in crime had outsmarted him seven years after the Klan was reorganized and he was forced to step aside as Grand Wizard and accept \$90,000 for his work and watch others carry on.

Like the old order, the so-called modern KKK depended on concealing the identity of its members behind long, white robes with white peaked helmets and weird masks in which eye holes were cut.

## Appeals to Hate

"America for Americans," was the motto of the rejuvenated klan which prospered because of its appeal to race prejudice, and religious intolerance.

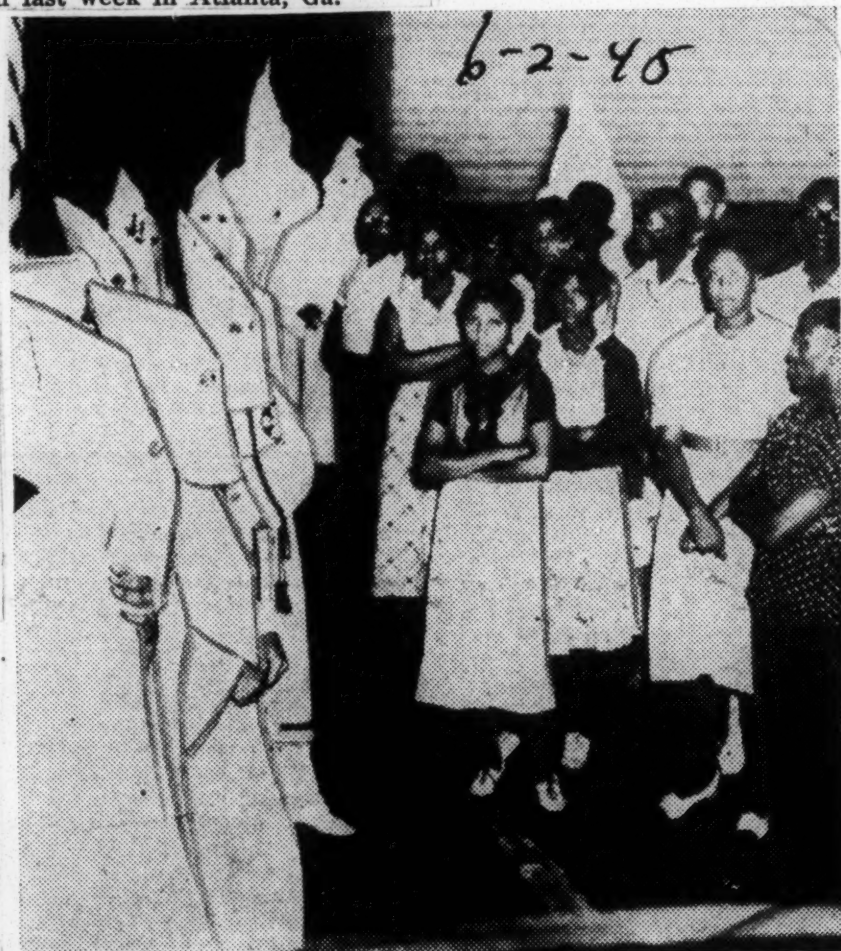
It was against colored people, Jews and Catholics and foreign-born just like Hitler, Mussolini and their like. It was in favor of white supremacy.

A Congressional investigation in 1921 and an expose by the New York World of its wanton activities, served to help the organization prosper and while its claims of from 500,000 to 700,000 members were untrue then, its membership rolls soared in the 20's and covered not only Southern States but the rest of the country as well.

## Thrived on Mystery

The KKK thrived on mystery and fear and is credited with all sorts of lawlessness and crimes during its hey-day. Nightly parades in which members marched in their hideous masks and other regalia, burning of crosses to warn of their assemblage and frighten their victims (still a favorite pastime today), floggings, kidnappings, mutilations, murders, hangings were some of their atrocities.

Whites as well as colored people were Klan victims in the South. Henry Frey, a former Kleagle, recalls in his book how a Houston lawyer had his hair clipped and was run out of town for "too close



High-handed Ku Kluxers shown as they invaded a dance given by colored residents of Lakeland, Fla., in 1938. They are shown here reading the group a lecture. Incidents like this occurred often in Southern communities where the KKK was most active.

Their convention that year was held in the Washington Auditorium. This was repeated in many Southern communities. Ministers and Catholic priests whose projects included colored people were often victims.

## Houston Near Riot

A near riot in 1921, in Houston, Texas, resulted when a dentist, J. F. Cockrell, was mutilated by masked men for association with white women.

At that time many colored doctors and dentists had mixed clientele and warnings went out telling them to drop their white patients.

Proof that the Klan was, not confined to the South may be found in the records which show that 18,000 strong paraded in the nation's capital despite the protests of colored citizens and Catholic groups to President Coolidge.

## Defeated Al Smith

Defeat of Al Smith, a Catholic, in the 1928 campaign, was credited to the KKK's appeal to religious intolerance.

While the organization is not as strong today, it is believed that KKK units were active in the Detroit strikes and riots, and it is not unusual in some communities to find fiery crosses burning outside homes purchased by colored families or near meeting places for interracial gatherings.

The death in 1945 of the greatest klan member of them all, Adolf Hitler, followed by the death last week of the re-organizer of the American Gestapo, may or may not be a sign that in the years to come racial and religious intolerance may take a holiday.

## Gaudeamus Igitur

William Joseph Simmons, one-time preacher and first Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, died in an Atlanta hospital last week.

Simmons, who was 75, revived the Ku Klux thirty years ago and built up a membership estimated at over four millions; made himself and his associates rich from initiation fees and soiled night gowns; staged torch light meetings and paraded through the streets; burned fiery crosses in an effort to terrorize colored people.

The KKK income was estimated at more than a million dollars a year and over a period of years more than \$50,000,000 was taken in.

Membership in the Klan gave an opportunity in the Bible belt for a number of ignorant and prejudiced whites to hide their faces, and without fear of prosecution by the courts, to use their organized might to plunder and pillage colored people, Jews, Catholics and foreigners.

The Klan revival, however, was not as successful as the original organization for two reasons:

1. Newspapers like the old New York World took the lead in exposing the Simmons gang as a racket designed to take in money and to make a mockery of the courts.

2. In addition, colored people were far better organized than they were in the period just after the Civil War. They didn't frighten so easily and, on many occasions, stayed to give battle.

Except in the remote areas, the KKK gradually faded from the scene.

Now, William J. Simmons is dead. His creed was:

"I shall ever be true in the faithful maintenance of white supremacy."

His motto was: "The Ku Klux Klan yesterday, today and forever."

Both creed and motto were those of Adolph Hitler.

He is dead along with Simmons.

Gaudeamus Igitur! Therefore let us rejoice!

## Ku Kluxers!

I remember when one of the greatest news photographers who ever worked in Atlanta received an order from a news picture syndicate to get a picture of a Ku Klux Klan ceremonial. That was back in the early 'twenties, when the KKK was news, even though a shameful outrage. Now the KKK didn't permit any pictures of their ceremonials. They kept plenty of husky sentries and guards to prevent just such an event. But this photographer wasn't stumped. He, with his wife's help, transformed a lot of old sheets into sufficiently realistic facsimiles of klan gowns and masks and regalia, hired a bunch of stand-ins, took them out to a field with a good outcrop of rocks, made them don the fake KKK apparel and made his pictures.

And labeled them scenes of a secret KKK ceremonial on Stone Mountain.

You may recall the chief shame of the KKK was that it attracted dupes into membership—with their initiation fees in hand—by pandering to racial hatreds.

And the joke was the hired stand-ins, inside those imitation robes and masks, were all Negro boys.



# Negroes Snuff Out Fiery Cross, Give Miami KKK a Surprise

*Daily Worker - N.Y. 8-22-45*

By EUGENE GORDON

An old style Ku Klux Klan terrorist demonstration, complete with burning of the fiery cross, which was put on in the Negro section of Miami, Fla., last week did not go over in the "old style."

The parade was held by "some hoodlums," which included "police officials, judges and city executives," who "set aflame a huge cross symbol of the decadent Ku Klux Klan, in a Negro residential section," it is reported by "The Whip," Negro weekly published in Miami.

Among spectators were two colored men, who, after a brief spell, casually walked over, hauled the spectacle down, and after smothering the flames, took the charred remains away as a souvenir."

The Lighthouse and Informer, a Negro weekly of Columbia, S. C., made the following editorial comment on this incident: *8-22-45*

"The action symbolizes the attitude among Negroes of today toward the Klan. No longer do white-sheeted, mysterious hooded figures who ride by night throw terror into the minds of Negroes. As in Miami there are in the general South colored men who would today pull the bed sheets off this bunch of cowards and terrorists. Perhaps knowledge of this inspired Klansmen to hie it into virgin lands."



RALPH MCGILL

## They Couldn't Join The Klan or 'Gerald'

*Atlanta Constitution*

This is a new chapter about the atomic bomb. Has anything good ever come out of a K. K. K. Klavern? The record shows that out of some of them have come decisions of murder, rape, brutal floggings, un-Christian, un-American prejudices, and a great deal of foolishness about kilgraps, kleagles, wizards, knight-hawks, and so on.

Has anything worthy come out of the blatant, rabble-rousing meetings of the Gerald Smith crowd? Nothing that one knows. The record is one of distortion and hate and prejudice.

What has been the product of organizations preaching hate and prejudice? Violence, hate and prejudice.

All these organizations sow hate and prejudice.

Therefore, that is all they can reap.

They exist in the business of trimming suckers, by frightening them about minorities in a country made up of minorities. They employ anti-Jewish talk to frighten some. Before others they parade the "scare" that somehow the Pope of Rome is going to get them if they don't watch out. For the lesser mentalities they use the scare of the Negro, saying that if he doesn't watch out some "nigger" will want to marry him—three baits for suckers.

It is a racket almost as old as time. It has been a flourishing racket since the Middle Ages. It is a painfully frank admission of a feeling of self-inferiority and of being afraid of competition.

**The Bomb** Now we have produced in this country the greatest scientific achievement in the history of mankind . . . the atomic bomb. Bound up in it is the control of atomic energy.

Franklin sent a kite up into a storm and managed to catch a spark of lightning off a brass door key. That was in 1751. More than 100 years were to pass before a transformer, beyond the simple induction-coil type, was produced. Not until about 70 years ago did we get a transformer which made possible electric power as we know it today.

The steam engine, the gasoline engine have wrought miracles and industrial revolutions. They have changed the faces of nations and the economic balances of the world.

Put them down as minor in comparison with this control of the energy bound up in an atom.

(One pound of the new substance is as great as 5,000,000 pounds of coal; of 400,000 gallons of high-test gasoline.)

And we have just begun. Franklin has caught the spark on a brass key. But we will not have to wait long for its use—at best a decade—and we will be putting it to use in its domestic beginnings.

**Refugees** Now, if all this had been left to the darkness of mind found in a K. K. K. Klavern, or a 'Gerald' Smith meeting, this gigantic achievement would not, and could not, have happened.

The principle character in this story is Dr. Lise Meitner, a German Jewess who was at work in the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute in Berlin. When Hitler came she was exiled as a non-Aryan. She could not belong to Gerald Smith's group nor to a Klan. (What a great pity, to be sure.) She went to Copenhagen. Two Danes (furriners) worked with her.

This led to an experiment at Columbia University in January, 1939. The little Jewess, the two furriner Danes, and Prof. Enrico Fermi (just a Wop in the lexicon of the Klaverns, where the boys scratch themselves and talk pure, undefiled, 100 per cent bunk).

Not a one of these was eligible for the Ku Klux Klan. Not one could cheer raucous Gerald. Not one could join the Silver Shirts, the "America for Americans," or any other such delightfully exclusive organization.

They gave their discovery to this country—urged it upon our military services as a weapon in war and enormous scientific progress in peace.

Hitler made of Germany one great big Ku Klux Klan Klavern, replete with kilgraps and kleagles, and his scientists were two years behind the United States in developing atomic energy control.

Over in Italy, where Mussolini had adopted the Gerald Smith plan, there were no brains left either and the Italians didn't even think of it. Their best mind was in exile in America.

I can tell you this—the little Jewess and the refugee furriners who made the first great discovery have done more for the cause of pure, 100 per cent Americanism, than all the klans, and like groups all lumped together have done in all their collective lives.

And they know it. And they know, too, God is not mocked.

And all their mumbo-jumbo ritual, and all their bitterness of mind, will not remove that fact, though they rattle the windows of their lodges with their empty words.

## D. C. Stephenson Called Insane in Report Of Psychiatrist on Former Head of Ku Klux

*The New York Times*  
New York, New York  
8-10-45 Special t

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 9.—D. C. Stephenson, former Glu Klux Klan Dragon in twenty-one midwestern States, who is serving a life sentence for murder of an Indianapolis young woman, should have been committed to the State Prison hospital for the criminally insane in 1942, James A. Emmert, attorney general, charged today.

Aroused by Stephenson's latest addition to the voluminous court record, piled up in twenty years as the convicted murderer attempted repeatedly to gain his freedom, Mr. Emmert revealed the contents of a psychiatric survey by Dr. Palmer M. Gallup, then psychiatrist at the State Prison, who diagnosed Stephenson's illness as paranoid and recommended his commitment to the insane hospital.

Stephenson has been at county jail at Noblesville since early this year while attorneys argued his latest petition for a new trial. Mr. Emmert described the former Klan Dragon as a "sex pervert" and also charged that the State Prison warden in 1942 (Alfred Dowd, replaced this week) was lax in his prison administration in that he failed to carry out recommendations in the psychiatrist's report.

"This latest move of Stephenson," Mr. Emmert said, "is another attempt to make the public forget that he is a convicted murderer whose unfortunate victim died as a direct result of his acts of the most cruel and brutal sex perversion. He is just another Hitler and has been diagnosed as a paranoiac in 1942."

"If the State Prison had had a warden with any 'guts' then he

would have been put in the hospital for criminal insane. I am getting fed up with his delusions of persecution and grandeur."

The psychiatrist's report was made in September, 1942. At the time of the examination, Stephenson was forty-two years old and was described by Dr. Gallup as moving "with an air of regal serenity," with a gait that "is firm and rather like a soldier on parade."

"His general knowledge of history, current events, law, ethics, etc., is far above the average and unquestionably intact."

"In fact, it is almost unbelievable that one who is so richly endowed could be so inconsistent, puerile, arrogant and unreasonable as he has been over and over again during his incarceration in prison. There is only one explanation: he is mentally ill."



# Jersey Police Suspect Revival of KKK Activity

By ARNOLD BLOM

Police officials in New Jersey suspect that the Ku Klux Klan is resuming its activity in Hunterdon County.

Twice in the last three weeks fiery crosses have been burned just west of Flemington, in one case in the immediate vicinity of a Summer camp with a predominantly Jewish clientele.

The first cross was burned the night of Aug. 9 on Thacher's Hill, just a mile from the farm home of Sheriff Odell Butler.

The second was burned last Wednesday night close to a Summer camp known as Faros's Grove, on Everitt's Hill.

These are the first reported instances of KKK-type activity in New Jersey since the hooded organization burned a cross last May on the site of a Negro housing development in Hamilton Township, on the outskirts of Trenton.

The two cross burnings in Flemington are being investigated by state police and Sheriff Butler. Both said they understood the KKK was behind the incidents, but couldn't prove it.

County Prosecutor Clyde Jefferson said he hadn't heard of the Wednesday night burning, and went on:

"I don't like it. It's very bad to have things like that. I don't know what law it violates, and I don't know what I could do about it, but I think there's a law against inciting to race hatred.

"We had the same thing after the first world war. That was done by organized hoodlums, that is, the KKK. I've heard rumors that it's getting organized again. I certainly would prosecute anyone caught doing anything like that to the full extent of the law."

Butler said the Klan was quite active in the Flemington area eight or 10 years ago, and at one time erected its own church at Larson's Corners, on Route 30, the road to Trenton. He said the organization gradually faded away and sold the church.

The sheriff said he had heard rumors that the Aug. 9 burning was directed at Summer camps where Negroes and whites lived together, but that he knew of no such camp in the Flemington area.

Last Apr. 10, Elmo Roper, director of *Fortune* magazine's public-opinion poll, warned that KKKism was on the way back all over the Nation, its targets varying accord-

ing to the local situation, but always aimed at minorities. He said anti-Negro sentiment has become a major problem in the North, as well as in the South, and that anti-Semitism has spread all over.

## NEW JERSEY KKK GETS ITS POSTWAR PLANS UNDER WAY

FLEMINGTON, N. J. — With war worries on the decline, the Ku Klux Klan in this vicinity has washed its robes, trimmed its torches and is back in business again.

Two fiery-cross burnings during August served notice on Flemington citizens that the KKK is up to its old tricks. One of the incidents, which occurred on August 22, was evidently meant for the Faros Grove summer camp which has a clientele composed mainly of Jewish people. The first cross-burning on August 9 took place about a mile from the farm of the Hunterdon county sheriff, Odell Butler. The sheriff stated that the movement was reborn in much the same way following World War I but announced that he would prosecute anyone caught taking part in any such movements to the fullest extent of the law.

The KKK's career in the county after the last war was short-lived but attempts to revive it have been made at infrequent intervals. The hooded outfit burned a cross as recently as May near a Negro housing project in the Trenton area.

The Hunterdon county incident brought to mind a poll conducted by *Fortune* magazine in the spring which revealed that the Ku Klux Klan's activities were on the increase throughout the nation. The poll pointed out that anti-Negro feeling had ceased to be solely a Southern possession and that anti-Semitism was growing all over the United States.

## Jobs for All Seen Bar to KKK Rebirth

### Report on Menace Of Hate Groups Scheduled Here for Sunday

By KARL PRETSHOLD

The Ku Klux Klan is being revived in the South and similar hate and bigotry organizations have become active to an "alarming" extent, Dr. Clark Foreman, president of the Southern Conference for Human Rights, declared here yesterday, following a tour of a number of Southern states.

Dr. Foreman will report in detail on the menace of such groups at a one-day session of the New York Committee of the Conference at the Hotel Commodore which will be followed by a dinner on Sunday.

The task of stifling hate and bigotry groups is an urgent one, Dr. Foreman told reporters yesterday. The preaching of hatred and prejudice can be met effectively, he contended, only by the Government assuming responsibility for a pro-

gram of fair and full employment.

Unless the KKK and similar groups are checked, Dr. Foreman contended, there will be serious outbreaks such as were instigated by the Klan following the last war. Pointing out the Dept. of Agriculture predicts serious unemployment among farmers and land workers in the South, Dr. Foreman declared that a "return to the land" would not be a substitute for full and fair employment. Cotton growing, he declared, will be rapidly mechanized now that efficient cotton picking and cotton "chopping" machines are on the market.

"America," he said, "cannot allow one section of the country to starve itself into bigotry."

Among the organizations and groups which Dr. Foreman said now are preaching hatred, division, bigotry, or prejudice in the South are:

¶ In Georgia, the Commoner Party, an anti-Negro, anti-Semitic group.

¶ Sons of Dixie, active in Tennessee and making a particular appeal to union members. Definitely anti-Negro, said Dr. Foreman.

¶ Christian Veterans Assn. with headquarters in Chicago is circulating veterans in Georgia.

¶ The Christian American Assn., which Dr. Foreman said is "financed from the North," is particularly active in Texas.

These and similar organizations are concentrating their efforts on fighting the FEPC (Fair Employment Practices Commission) bill in Congress. He added that the present weak FEPC has been effective in opening new job opportunities for Negroes. He cited the textile industry, where, Dr. Foreman said, many Negroes now have skilled jobs because of the work of FEPC.

The session here Sunday will discuss the responsibility of the Federal Government for guaranteeing fair employment practices.

## GEORGIA KLANSMEN BURN FIERY CROSS

Grand Dragon Says Its 20,000 Members in State Are Waging

War on Communism

ATLANTA, Oct. 20 (AP)—The Ku Klux Klan, claiming a membership of more than 20,000 in Georgia, is burning its fiery cross again and stirring up new argument over the order born in reconstruction days. A huge cross which leaders said was visible sixty miles away, was lighted on Stone Mountain, a few nights ago, the first since the start of the war.

Dr. Samuel Green, the Grand Dragon, said the Klan was no longer active on a national basis but functioned under a "voluntary" State set-up, and added:

"The Klan has as much right to exist as the Masons, Rotarians or any other organization."

The Klan would be "the first to prosecute its own members if they violated the law, he asserted. Dr. Green listed the four main principles of the Klan as "character development," "clannishness"—mixing with those who have the same ideas; "protection of the home and chastity of white womanhood," and "exemplification of a pure patriotism to the United States, its Constitution and its flag."

Georgia members paid an initiation fee of \$10, the annual membership fee is \$6 and all contribute \$2 for an insurance fund for the benefit of families of deceased members.

"The cross is symbolic of what the Klan stands for," said Mr. Green. "The Klan is fighting communism. We were the first to fight

KLAN'S GRAND DRAGON



Dr. Samuel Green

Associated Press Wirephoto.

it. Congressmen laughed at us at the start. But police raids in Atlanta showed Communist pamphlets promising the whole South to the Negroes if they joined the Communist party."



# The Klan Still Lives

## Southern White Writer Bares Plot Of Hooded Hoodlums

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Negro Americans were fooled last year into believing that the Ku Klux Klan had dissolved. This paper asked Harold Preece, white Southern writer and managing editor of New South Features, to check on the "dissolution" after reports of Klan terrorism reached it from all parts of the country. In this first of a series of three articles, based upon sworn affidavits, Mr. Preece shows what the Klan is up to and clearly indicates the need for government suppression of an organization which would extend John Rankin's doctrine of "white supremacy" to every part of our nation.)

### By HAROLD PREECE NEW SOUTH FEATURES

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America rejoiced too soon when the Ku Klux Klan announced that it had "dissolved" last year.

The Klan decentralized but did not dissolve. In these three exclusive articles, I shall expose its trial of treason extending from New Jersey to California.

Its local organizations were "released" from allegiance to headquarters in order that they might have more leeway to terrorize their home communities without involving the national organization. Another reason was to defraud the United States government—the hoodlum outfit owed federal corporation taxes for years back and the Treasury Department was pressing for settlement. Which meant that the flour sack night riders would have had to have disclosed its annual take as well as its contributors.

Under cover of the national rejoicing, the Klan reportedly sold its office building in Atlanta, Ga., at the time of its "dissolution." It has since established a Southern base in Chattanooga, Tenn.—one of Dixie's major industrial cities—and less than 150 miles from Atlanta.

#### Getting Ready to Kill

In Chattanooga, it has already organized two branches among backward Southern whites for future massacres of Negroes and Jews. KKK national representative J. B. Stoner, stationed in Chattanooga, said recently in a private conversation that he expects the Klan to "reach its peak" when ex-servicemen and former war work-

ers will be returning to their former communities looking for jobs. "The conflict," he said "will come when Negroes, who have gotten jobs because of the war and the FEPC, won't give up those jobs to white men."

Stoner, who walks with a limp as did Herr Goebbels, keeps a pistol parked on the piano of his apartment at 419 High street, in preparation for the day when the Klan will ride forth to uphold its "racial ideals" listed in a printed pamphlet entitled "Ideals of the Ku Klux Klan." The pamphlet declares that "this is a white man's organization," that "we stand for white supremacy," and that "we must keep this a white man's country."

"This republic was established by white men." "It was established for white men" and "our forefathers never intended that it should fall into the hands of an inferior race" continues this Mein Kampf of the Klan, handed to each new member along with the KKK rule book, the Kloran, for his "instruction."

Without any interference from federal, state or local authorities in Chattanooga, the Klan is preparing for bloody race riots to overturn the constitution and laws of our country in the name of "white supremacy." Its line of action was clearly indicated at a Klan meeting held at night in the Woodmen of the World Hall, 906½ Market street, last September 12. While initiating Charles Bunch, a bottler for the local Coca Cola plant, Stoner declared to his members:

#### "Fight The N....rs"

"Mr. Bunch is going into the army soon. We'll miss him. But he'll be learning to fight, and we can use him against the n....rs when he gets back. All over the country, Klansmen are going into

the army and we'll use them when they get out."

On the same night, Stoner appointed a local executive board of twelve which included Raymond Floyd, business agent, and Floyd Staley, financial secretary respectively of Hodcarriers Union Local 846, and AFL organization with a predominantly Negro membership. Raymond Floyd, who is paid by Negro workers to look after their interests, made a mob-inciting speech boasting that white members of the local would be "used against the n....rs" when they returned from military service.

Floyd claimed that "local Jewish racketeers kept n....rs from working by the numbers racket" and that this plus the "fact" that n....r members of the local had not been drafted "would be 'used' as anti-Negro propaganda when 'old members get back from the army.'"

He said that he and Staley "were usually able to control the union" but that "it had a colored president, colored vice president, and one colored trustee who are gradually trying to get more control."

Floyd was installed with Klan ritual ceremonies as Klexter (outer guard) of the outfit at a meeting held in the second of the Klan's two halls at 1416½ Dodds avenue on the night of October 2. The Dodds avenue hall is located upstairs over Kay's Ice Cream shop, and was secured for the gangsters by a Klansman belonging to the WOW.

The Market street hall is also an upstairs place with the downstairs space being occupied by a Jewish Firm, Moskin's Credit Clothing store. Moskin's innocently rents the hall to the WOW—a highly reputable fraternal organization to which this writer belongs—and somebody with local authority in this order permits the Klan to meet there.

W. Paul Long, an old-time klansman, was appointed as "exalted cyclops" or president of the local organization but has been unable to attend meetings regularly. Another old time kluxer named Stegall, who runs a grocery at 2521 Broad

street, and lives at 1704 E. 13th street, serves as "chaplain" and leads the mobsters in prayer before they go out to burn the fiery crosses which are becoming common sights in the skies over Chattanooga.

Charles Beall, a young rabble-rouser who seems to have no definite employment, is the klokar or lecturer of the Klan in Chattanooga. Like one of Hitler's main lieutenants who was once confined in an asylum in Sweden, Beall is said to be an inmate of an institution.

He digests for the members publications like Gerald L. K. Smith's Cross and the Flag, indicted seditionist's Elizabeth Dilling's "Patriotic Bulletin" and Rev. W.D. Herrstrom's Bible News Flashes, and repeats the substance of their lynch-lore to the pop-eyed klurers at each meeting.

At the first meeting of the Klan following President Roosevelt's death last April 12, Beall waved a copy of a Negro paper, the Pittsburgh Courier in his hand, and mocked the expressions of sorrow from colored Americans in its columns. "The New Deal died with the Jew Rosenfeld," he screamed. "And plenty more Jews and n....rs are going to follow him down into hell."

#### Reveal Klan Members

Following is a partial list of other Chattanooga Klan officers and members, according to sworn affidavits in my possession:

THOMAS BAGWELL, 303 East Fifth street, construction foreman and member of the Hod Carriers Union, employed at the Volunteer Ordnance Works. At the December 12 meeting, Bagwell and other Klansmen praised the lynchers who had recently hanged a young Negro inmate of the Pikeville, Tenn., state reformatory. Bagwell said, discussing the lynching, that "there's only one n....r in my gang and I make him do work that I wouldn't have a white man do."

THOMAS CUNNINGHAM, 746 Vine street, employed by the Signal Mountain Cement company. Cunningham has been instrumental in keeping Negroes from being upgraded at his plant and made a

violent speech against FEPC at the meeting which honored the Pikeville lynchers. Stoner followed him, saying that upgrading of Negroes could be stopped by strikes of white workers. Several months later, in the old Klan center of Memphis, Tennessee, 5,000 white workers at the Firestone plant abandoned crucial war production and walked out when a Negro was given a higher classification;

W. A. BURGISS, 2316 Glass st., machine helper, Southern Railway, and Klan doorkeeper;

ALBERT E. BENTON, 1219 East 13th street, employee, Cavalier Corporation;

HORACE HUMPHRIES, manager Humphries Flowers, 4200 Tennessee avenue, member of Klan investigating committee; 7-7-45

CORNELIUS G. McCOMMON, 2003 Elmendorf street, machinist helper, Nashville, Chattanooga, and St. Louis Railway.

EDMOND S. STALEY, who lives in a house (number unknown) on Walnut street; and H. A. BUICE, Maryville, Tennessee, leader of the Klan branch in that town and operator of a small foundry there. Buice administered the oath to the new members of the Chattanooga Klan at a meeting held October 10 and made a little speech saying that he hoped the organization would soon control the city "racially and politically." Buice is mentioned in John Roy Carlson's classic expose of American Nazi gangs, "Under Cover," is having been the man who paid for KKK advertising.

Most of these men are dangerous to democracy.

But they are only a few of the pawns in the Klan's main objective—to organize a national anti-Jewish Party, headed by somebody like Colonel Charles Lindbergh or Senator W. Lee O'Daniel of Texas, to work (shoot) its way into the national capital at Washington.

Next week, I'll expose the Klan's national political plans and some of the phoney names under which it operates in various parts of the country.



Preece Writes

# Klan Plans Secret Confab To Organize Fascist Party

By HAROLD PREECE

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Sometime this summer, the "dissolved" Ku Klux Klan will hold a secret klanvocation (convention) attended by representatives of other notorious pro-Axis groups, to launch a nationwide and anti-Negro, anti-Russian, anti-semitic, anti-labor political party.

The new party will be built on what the KKK ritual books describe as "the strict military discipline" of the Klan. Its local branches will be known as "Christian Action Committees" and will be organized particularly in towns where political action committees of the AFL and CIO are operating.

The CAC groups already functioning in a number of Eastern and Midwestern cities, will be staffed with Klansmen and members of allied fascist organizations. They will carry on day-to-day and door-to-door propaganda work among conservative white Christians, befuddled and angry over the aftermath of the war and the grim threats of another depression.

## Goes After Servicemen

But since a fascist political party relies more on headbusting than eletioneering to get in power, the Klan expects to sponsor (as this series indicated last week) storm trooper bands of unemployed ex-servicemen, set up along the lines of Hitler's SS detachment, to persecute Jews, Negroes, Communists and trade unionists.

"I'd suggest that we call it the National Anti-Jewish Party," J. B. Stoner, Southern KKK representative stationed in Chattanooga, Tennessee, said recently while discussing the new organization with some of his cronies. "If we used that name, they could not accuse us of being secret or undercover."

Stoner pointed out that if anybody criticized the party, he could be asked, "Are you a Jew?" "They'll be taken aback and can't answer that one," he laughed.

Others high in Klan circles, however, feel that Stoner's suggested name isn't "broad" enough. To call the fascist political front simply an

"anti-Jewish Party" would imply that it was fighting only Jews when, in fact, the Klan is opposed to all racial minorities.

## Jealousies

Probably, according to "inside" information given me, a hot debate will take place at the klanvocation over the name. The followers of Gerald L. K. Smith, who publishes the Cross and Flag in Detroit and who ran as the American First Party candidate for President, will want to expand this party, sent up as a fascist trial balloon in the 1944 campaign. I am informed however, that most of the boys on the "in" favor the name "Nationalist," already being popularized by violently anti-Russian, pro-isolationist papers like the Chicago Tribune and the New York Daily News, for the name of the new party.

Exact date and place for the convention have not been set due to personal rivalries between the fascist chiefs themselves.

All of them are jealous of KKK Imperial Wizard James E. Colescott even if they've had to accept the help of his veteran hoodlums in keeping their less experienced outfits alive. Each little feuhrer is afraid that Colescott will swallow up his following and then throw him out on his ear.

## Pal of Fritz Kuhn

This has happened inside the Klan itself when William Joseph Simmons, who reorganized the post-Civil War terrorist outfit on Stone Mountain near Atlanta, in 1916, found himself ousted in a few years by an ambitious Dallas, Texas, dentist, Hiram Wesley Evans. Later, Evans was replaced by Colescott who made peace with Catholic fascist groups headed by Father Charles E. Coughlin (although the Klan still does not admit Catholics to membership) and later spoke at a German-American Bund meeting in New Jersey with Bund Feuhrer Fritz Kuhn, recently ordered deported to his conquered homeland.

Favored place for the convention is America's most important heavy industry center, Detroit. The Klan has a large following among migrant Southern war workers there and among many Jew-baiting, Negro-baiting nondescript preachers who have followed the Southerners to Detroit for the pickings. It is felt by some of the feuhrers that the Klan can meet safely in the auditorium of a church pastored by some kluxer preacher by posing as

a religious meeting.

Although the meeting will be representative of most of the American fascist groups, attendance will probably be limited to top leaders who will the "pass the word on" to the rank and file. Office of Defense Transportation regulations limit the size of conventions to 50 without special permission. The Klan is not anxious to reveal its plans to a government which it has already defrauded of thousands of dollars in corporation taxes by applying for a permit to hold a larger gathering.

## Klan Mob Attack

Another possible place for the evil gabfest is the Werts Tabernacle in Muncie, Indiana, a predominantly conservative Protestant town where a young Negro, Joshua Thompson, Jr., was almost lynched by a Klan-incited mob of 400 men on May 3, 1944.

For months, prior to the mob attack, Curt Asher, ex-bootlegger, ex-police reporter for the Chicago Tribune, and ex-"private detective" for D. C. Stephenson, Indiana KKK grand dragon now doing a life stretch for murdering his secretary, had published in a Muncie sheet, X-Ray, screaming stories of attempted "rape" by Negro defense workers upon white women.

For months, too, Negroes had been baited in sermons in the Werts Tabernacle, run by "Reverend" Fred Werts, who had previously been in jail for beating the government out of income taxes derived from the manufacture of crooked gambling devices. Werts got out of jail by "getting religion" on the advice of his lawyer, Clarence J. Benadum. Benadum receives contributions for the Indiana Christian Action Committee. Its president is Rev. J. Walter Gibson, a leading Muncie minister until he resigned his pulpit, several years back to become a Ku Klux lecturer.

## 'Boring From Within'

Meanwhile, the KKK will continue to "bore from within" the two established political parties until it can realize its aim of organizing enough mass strength for a fascist third party which can roll up votes for "nationalist" candidates. Its members will operate under whatever names that are convenient at the moment until the Christian Action Committee's blanket the country.

They will call themselves the Mantle Clubs of war industries from Massachusetts to Minnesota. They

will call themselves American Action, Inc., in Baltimore. American Action is headed by Dr. Walter M. Haushalter, pastor of the Christian Temple and sinister Eric Alt, a leading figure in the Baltimore Association of Credit men, both of them friends of Gerald L. K. Smith and of Lawyer Bernadum in Muncie. They will call themselves the Four Freedoms Committee in New Jersey and the Order of American Patriots in Houston, Texas.

Not all the members of these organizations are Klansmen, but Klansmen are to be found in every one of them.

In the South, the Klan will try to capture large sections of the Democratic Party and in the North, large sections of the Republican Party for the coming new "Nationalist" movement.

## Texas a Candidate

In Texas, the Klan is booming Democratic Lieutenant Governor John Lee Smith for the governor's office in 1946. This writer has unimpeachable proof, from inside sources, that Smith is an honorary member of the Klan-allied organization, the Order of American Patriots, in Houston. Smith has been denounced by a prominent Texas Democratic Party leader, Herman Jones, at a public meeting in Austin, as having been a Klan "cyclops" and speech-maker in the period following World War I. But the state's second highest official has never denied the charge nor instituted suit for libel against Jones.

In Indiana, the Republican Party is filled with Klansmen and ex-Klansmen who have maneuvered themselves into high places.

Indiana Republican boss Robert W. Lyons, who lives in Indianapolis but who spends most of his time in Washington as a tax lobbyist for J. C. Penny and Company as well as other chain store interests, was forced to resign as Republican national committeeman for his state, last year, when his political enemies dug out the fact that he had once been state treasurer of the Klan.

Indiana Governor Ralph Gates has been accused of being an ex-Klansman, a charge which he denies although the Klan gave him all-out support in the November election. A member of the Indiana legislature informs me that the Klan is putting persistent pressure on Governor Gates to pardon imprisoned Grand Dragon Stephenson. Lawyer Benadum's wife, Mary, now vice-chairman of the 10th Congressional District organization of the Republican party, made many speeches for the Klan in its hey-day back in the 20's.

I'll rip some more masks off the Klan in the last and final article of this series, next week.

## Explanation of Term 'Sister'

Nurse in Europe Addressed by That Title Regardless of Affiliation

EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

It is possible to add another shock to those which the public has already received from the revelations of Nazi cruelty in the German horror camps and prisons, the account of the unspeakable extermination plant for the mentally defective or physically deformed at Kaufbeuren, in Bavaria, described in your issue of July 4, will provide it.

But the ghastly character of this story places a severe responsibility upon any reporter who would knowingly involve the presumably innocent in such a scene of moral degradation. The Reuter dispatch which THE TIMES quotes states that "with few exceptions" the perpetrators or passive "collaborators" in these crimes "were Germans who were not Nazi party members. Some were Catholic sisters and nurses."

To the English-speaking public these words convey the impression that "Catholic sisters," that is to say, women or nuns belonging to a recognized Catholic religious order or congregation, were associated with the misdeeds. That anything of this sort would be food and drink for the Ku-Klux mentality goes without saying. And it is certainly not unreasonable to ask that if even a suspicion of such a terrible accusation is to be voiced, it should be accompanied by uncontrovertible evidence.

The term "sister" (Schwester), as is well known, was applied by the Nazis—as by some other Europeans—merely to trained nurses, with no regard to any religious affiliation. The very same dispatch speaks of a "Sister Woerle," a murderous head nurse, and a "Sister Olga Rittler," who explained that she was a Lutheran. Whether one of these women monsters might term herself a Catholic or a Lutheran is a matter of practical indifference, since her conduct in any case would be of a type utterly repudiated by the tenets of either the Catholic or the Lutheran religion.

(The Rev.) JOHN LAFARGE, S. J.,  
Editor of America.  
New York, July 5, 1945.



# Ku Klux Klan Renewing Activity—White Minister

**AFRO-AMERICAN**  
Southern White Store-Front Preachers  
Organized to Fight Subversive Elements

By MICHAEL CARTER

NEW YORK—A resurgent Ku Klux Klan, already at work in many religious and political organizations throughout the nation, threatens racial harmony and unless checked may lead to bloody rioting and other violent expressions of intolerance in the post-war world.

The above warning was issued by the Rev. Claude Williams, white, itinerant Presbyterian minister and founder and leader of the People's Institute of Applied Religion.

Moreover, he adds, his organization has documentary evidence of the activity of the Klan, which has established headquarters in Texas and Detroit, but at present "is working undercover."

## White Preachers Attack

Wrapped in religion, purity of white womanhood and race hate, the Klan, he continues, is vocally supported by white store front preachers who hold forth in all cities which have experienced a mass in-migration of white Southerners.

"The resurgent Klan," he insists, "represents a mass protest against unsolved social and economic problems and the people's insecurity of the future when war plants will close."

"The people are in a dynamic mood and are questioning old values," he says. "They can be steered into the paths of democratic righteousness or into the valleys of American fascism."

## Other Churches Criticized

Declaring that the 313 different denominations of Protestant churches can not evolve a basic program to offset the KKK's influence, he says there is a need for the People's Institute.

The institute, founded during the depression, he continued, attempts to train Southern white "working-preachers" in the ways of true Christianity.

Institute funds are used to bring them together with colored ministers in schools located in Cincinnati and other Northern cities, where world problems are taught and effort is made to erase their racial prejudices.

## Religion Deflected

Arguments favoring unionism, racial democracy and interna-

tional cooperation are heavily flavored with religion. "We show how it is impossible for a true Christian to have room in his heart for race hate," the cleric declares.

Because many of the preachers have no formal education, the schools use charts, textbooks and other classroom material cast on the fourth grade level.

The minister charges that just as his organization is trying to instill democratic ideals into the heads of these preachers, certain Northern industrialists are using them for anti-democratic purposes.

## Point of View Changed

A former fire and brimstone preacher, Williams says, "I preached and shouted about the Old Testament and the evils of sinning until I discovered — by accident — that with all that preaching I was only talking about Heaven."

"Then I changed to a more practical preachment of Christianity which includes all peoples and their earthly problems."

When preachers are trained in these concepts, they are the best answers to the Father Coughlin, Gerald L. K. Smith level of anti-democratic attack, Williams believes.

## Institute Members in KKK

The institute recently held in Detroit a national convention attended by delegates from twenty-five States. Some of the delegates are undercover members of the KKK, who, in private sessions, told the institute about KKK plans.

According to them, the KKK expects and even hopes for mass unemployment after the war, friction between returned service men and civilians and general social unrest.

## To Use FEPC's in Fight

Although the KKK opposes State and Federal Fair Employment Practice laws, they say, these laws may be used to foment racial trouble, for whites will be told they are unemployed because the colored people have been given their jobs.

At present the KKK's fascist racial and political doctrines are preached from many store front churches, especially around Detroit, which is apparently being used as a "test city."

## Colored Clerics' Role

## Ku Klux Klan

It is particularly important to train colored "working preachers" in the ideals of democracy, Williams feels, because colored people "are a potential in the struggle for economic and social justice in America."

Not sharing the American illusion of becoming millionaires or Presidents, Williams believes "Colored people are becoming to feel that their only protection is to be gained from themselves and from organizations with sensible, democratic-minded whites in unions."

Once a vast recruitment center for the institute, the store front church is dying out, he says, for the store fronts are now used for business and the church members are buying buildings.

## "Shop Preacher" Organized

The "natural religious leaders" will be replaced with other men who may be more selfish, Williams believes.

Therefore, he adds, the institute is now organizing the "shop preachers" in Detroit and other industrial cities. Shop preachers are men who work six days a week and preach on the seventh.

"It is from their congregations that KKK membership is recruited and we must take the offensive on the same level," Williams concluded.

## Postwar Prospects of Ku Kluxism

ELMO ROPER, *Fortune's* public opinion analyst, who has recently been investigating the field of prejudice against minorities, predicts "a very great revival and renewed virulence of some form or other of Ku Klux Klanism." This means that Mr. ROPER's soundings among the people have revealed as still present among us those factors which in the past have produced organized intolerance in times of tension, transition and dislocation.

In other words, the seeds are there, and well watered, which are capable of springing into a growth as monstrous as, or more monstrous than, the Ku Klux Klan after the other war. Perhaps the very organization is already in existence under some name or other. WILLIAM J. SIMMONS organized the Klan in Atlanta in 1915, but it amounted to little until 1920 when the conditions requisite to its flowering had developed.

However, all this does not mean that decent Americans must take it lying down, or stand idly by in the assumption that the pestilent growth is a predestined evil about which nothing can be done. Many things can be done. The most important has a larger aim than just the keeping down of prejudice. This is to endeavor to make sure that the immense task of economic re-

conversion from war to peace is accomplished with a minimum of disturbance.

There are many elements in Ku Kluxism — ingrained prejudice, the fact that Americans are just naturally joiners to whom regalia and ritual appeal, the profit motive of unscrupulous men who know that fortunes are to be made, from the sale of trappings and tracts, and political power acquired, too. But economic uneasiness seeking a scapegoat is the basic element. And the less economic uneasiness there is after this war the less will be the power of the American little HITLERS who are already spinning their vile plots.

One of the many good reasons for not sneering at postwar economic planning is that it is the best possible insurance against the rise of a movement which might blight our national politics, as the Klan blighted the politics of many States, including for a long time Indiana, and threaten more seriously than the Klan did our free institutions.

Of course, the problem can and must be faced directly, also. Many programs of action are possible, both privately and publicly inspired, and many are in being — among them the National Conference of Christians and Jews, which Mr. ROPER addressed in New York. Very hopeful likewise are the semi-official municipal committees, appointed by the Mayors of many cities and towns, including this one. If these committees are industrious and vigilant, seeking out and alleviating the little frictions which inflame prejudice and cumulate in active mass intolerance, then what Mr. ROPER fears may not come to pass — at least, not on the scale he indicates.

And the thing for everybody to remember is that organized mass intolerance never confines itself to hating and abusing any special one of the minorities which, by reason of existing prejudices, may be vulnerable. The Klan set out after the Catholic, the Jew, the Negro, the foreign-born, placing its emphasis against whichever, in a given local situation, seemed the most exposed for profitable attack. Coddle one hate, and you coddle them all.

## Roper Warns Klanism Again Threatens Nation

Californian

Predicts Race Rioting on West Coast

By JERRY BAKST

America today is faced with a revival of Ku Klux Klanism, the exact nature of which varies in dif-

ferent parts of the country, but which has violent anti-minority feeling as its essential ingredient, according to Elmo Roper, director of *Fortune* magazine's Public Opinion Poll.

Roper's warning was delivered to a special meeting of the National Conference of Christians and Jews yesterday in the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Anti-Negro feeling has become a major problem in the North as well as in the South, Roper said, "and the Negro probably will be the 'No. 1 victim' of a postwar outbreak of intolerance. The persecution of Negro takes the form of depriving

him of his right to work, Roper years—the great economic depression and the Second World War. Roper called for a gigantic program of public and private building in the postwar world as a possible solution for growing racial territorial animosities.

## Search for Scapegoats

"While anti-Semitism has spreading in the postwar world as a possible solution for growing racial territorial animosities, Roper and religious animosities.

"Give people something constructive to do," he said, "and perdition in Detroit," O'Brien said, "in the rural areas and the small time to hate each other. If we had that is getting worse all the time. cities of the South and the mid-west. Although America is a Nation of minorities, Roper pointed out, everyone seems to want to make everyone else the scapegoat for the trying experiences of the last 15

"We have a very serious situation of intolerance was echoed by two prominent laymen who attended the meeting, John J. O'Brien, a member of the Detroit Mayor's Interracial Committee, and Alfred Lundberg, of Oakland, Cal.

Report on Detroit



lies are next in line. We Catholics of Harvard University and Rabbi have been sailing along, feeling that Aaron Opher of the Synagogue we are not vulnerable, but we have Council of America.

only to look back a few years to see how vulnerable Catholics really are."

"We are going to have race riots out our way," Lundberg predicted, pointing out that the large influx of Negroes to work in war plants had upset established racial relationships in the Oakland area.

Some of the speakers at the all-day open discussions, attended by 1000 representatives from 49 cities, maintained that coolness on the part of some Catholic clergymen was an obstacle to the participation of Catholic laymen in the work of the Conference.

But Rev. George B. Ford of Columbia University urged Catholics to be good citizens and good Christians and to join the work of the Conference.

"Lay Catholics," he said, "must work independently to destroy intolerance."

### New Responsibilities

Special Sessions Justice Matthew Troy of Brooklyn and Leo Griffiths of Pittsburgh, both prominent Catholic laymen, said that too often Catholics use the supposed opposition of the Church and the clergy as an "alibi" for their own laziness and unwillingness to engage in the worthwhile work of promoting understanding.

Troy pointed out that ministers, as well as priests, can be influenced in their attitude toward groups like the Conference, by their own parishioners.

Pointing out that "the strength of America is in its diversity," Carlton J. H. Hayes, former ambassador to Spain, and a co-chairman of the Conference, asserted that "it would be deplorable if after defeating Nazism and Fascism abroad, we should face the very same thing here at home." The war and postwar periods, he said, imposed new and greater responsibilities on the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The meeting passed a resolution recommending adoption of a \$2,000,000 budget for the coming fiscal year.

Among the other speakers were Roger Straus, co-chairman of the Conference; Everett Clinchy, its president; Comdr. H. A. Badt, commandant of the Sampson Naval Training Station, and Basil O'Connor, national chairman of the American Red Cross, and a member of the Conference's budget committee.

Reports on the work of the Conference's standing committees were delivered by Dr. Howard Wilson

**W. J. Simmons,**  
P. M. N. Y.  
**1st KKK Chief,**

**Dies in Atlanta**

**One-Time Preacher**  
**Organized Nightshirts**  
**To Spread Hates**

William Joseph Simmons, one-time preacher and first Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, is dead. Friends disclosed that he died last Friday in an Atlanta hospital. He was 75.

Copying from the "nightriders" of the Reconstruction era following the Civil War, Simmons first created the KKK on paper and in 1915 launched the organization with a few followers. Within seven years an organization with more than 4,000,000 members had been built up and the KKK income was estimated at more than \$1,000,000 a year. More than \$50,000,000 poured into its coffers.

The Klan preached hate for Jews, labor, and Negroes, it wielded wide power in politics, and attracted to its fiery cross every sort of black-guard and scoundrel from pipsqueak politicians to killers.

In 1924 Dr. Hiram H. Evans of Dallas, Tex., wrested power from Simmons and then Simmons tried to destroy what he'd built. But meanwhile Klan members, arrayed in hoods and white nightshirt-like robes, had spread terror and intolerance across much of the Nation.

It elected governors, legislators, Congressmen and, using a weird and senseless ritual, held them to an accounting to the Klan. Newspaper exposures of its methods and aims, and particularly of its financial affairs, led to its downfall.

Finally Simmons dropped all claim to leadership—for a fat price—and retired to obscurity.

### From Preacher To Klansman

The death of William J. Simmons, former Imperial Wizard of the now discredited Ku Klux Klan, marks the end of a life filled with drama and pathos.

Born in Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Mr. Simmons became an ordained minister of the Alabama Conference, where he served for several years in the Methodist Episcopal Church South. He soon was persuaded to forsake the way of the Cross for the way of the sword. Instead of being an apostle of Christ, he became an apostle of hate and reaction. For the gospel of the dignity of human personality, he substituted the gospel of inferiority of some races. The organization he headed and gave direction for many years,

staged torch light parades throughout the South. The organization stressed "White Supremacy" and advocated and practiced violence upon Negroes; persecution of Jews and intolerance toward Catholicism. Indeed, at one time in southern history, there was scarcely an office-holder, municipal or state, who was not directly influenced by the vast power of the Klan in one or another way. As late as 1928, the Klan played no inconsiderable part in bringing defeat to the late Alfred E. Smith and the election of Herbert Hoover for President. Senators and Congressmen in Washington, even now, owe their political success to the undisputed political influence of the Klan.

And while, today the ideals of the Klan are still prevalent in our American life, Mr. Simmons had lived to see the vast empire of hate which he had erected smolder in the crucible of a world-wide interpretation of the brotherhood of men and the fatherhood of God. Let us pray that the day is not far distant when not a single vestige of the Klan's ideals will remain to plague mankind, and that the influence of men like Mr. Simmons will be used to promote ends more worthy and lofty.

## KKK Burns Cross At Trenton Negro Housing Site

Special to the Daily Worker

TRENTON, N. J., May 21.—The "fiery cross" of Ku Klux Klan was raised Saturday night, eve of "I Am An American Day," on the site of a Negro housing project under construction in Hamilton Township. It drew a crowd of over 150 people, some of whom saw a blacked out car drive away just as the cross burst into flames.

The cross, constructed of rough 2x4 boards wrapped in kerosene-soaked burlap, was planted on the grounds broken for the first house of the project, within 700 feet of the Negro St. Phillips Baptist Church. It is common knowledge that in the early twenties, Hamilton Township was completely terrorized by the Ku Klux Klan. This fresh act of terrorism, im-

### FIERY CROSS BURNED

TRENTON, May 22.—Police today promised an investigation into a possible outbreak of Klu Klux Klan activity in the ordinarily quiet suburb of Hamilton Township, where ground has been broken for a Negro housing project.

Police Chief Richard Brettell apparently was without clues to the identity of person who last Friday night burned a fiery cross on the lot on which the first 250 houses for Negroes will be constructed by the Federal Government. He expressed the opinion, meanwhile, that the incident was the work of a prankster.

mediately attributed to the KKK, moved Trenton labor and civic groups into action.

The Mercer County CIO Political Action Committee, which met today, passed a resolution condemning the "terroristic act," and set up a delegation to investigate.

The local branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People has notified its national office and the FBI, and prompt action is expected.

Trenton's Committee for Unity, headed by James Kerney, Jr., editor of the conservative Trenton Times, sent representatives to the scene to investigate. In a statement, Kerney said:

"We expect the local police in Hamilton Township to prevent any further outrage against the principles for which our fellow citizens are dying at Okinawa."

"This would appear to be a planned but isolated example of the kind of discrimination which was prevalent a few years ago, and which all of us hope will never again become prevalent in America."

Harry Lieberman, member of the Hamilton Township Committee, said today that police would investigate the burning of a cross on the site of the proposed federal housing project for Negroes.

Residents say that the burning of the cross climaxed numerous attempts to block erection of the project.